

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MCAP, PBOR, TU, GR

SUBJ: TURKISH WEEKEND PRESS GIVES FULL COVERAGE
TO GREEK DEVELOPMENT

EUCOM FOR POLAD AND J-2

REF: ANKARA 2388

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH TURKISH PRESS HAD NOT RECIPROCATED
RECENT GREEK PRESS ATTACKS ON TURKEY, MARCH 28 DISPUTE
INVOLVING TURKISH AIR FORCE OPERATIONS IN AEGEAN (REFTEL)
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KICKED OFF A FLURRY OF NEWSPAPER STORIES HERE ABOUT GREEK

MILITARY PREPARATIONS AND INTENTIONS IN THE AEGEAN AREA.
END SUMMARY.

1. PICKING UP THEME ON TURK-GREEK TENSION IN AEGEAN AND DISPUTE OVER MARCH 28 NATO EXERCISE (REFTEL), MARCH 30-31 TURKISH PRESS GAVE EXTENSIVE PLAY TO ALLEGED GREEK MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND INTEREST IN AEGEAN AREA. (APRIL 1 PAPERS LARGELY TURNED TO OTHER SUBJECTS.)

2. MARCH 30 MASS CIRCULATION HURRIYET STATED THAT GREECE IN APRIL WILL RECEIVE 36 PHANTOMS WITH NUCLEAR WARHEADS (SIC) FROM THE US FOR \$360 MILLION, AND IS NEGOTIATING WITH THE US TO ESTABLISH PHANTOM REPAIR AND ASSEMBLY FACILITY IN GREECE. FURTHERMORE, RATHER THAN BUYING MIRAGES FROM FRANCE, ONASSIS WILL SET UP MIRAGE ASSEMBLY PLANT IN GREECE. THE GOG, ACCORDING TO HURRIYET, IS ALSO PURCHASING 250 (UNSPECIFIED) MAIN BATTLE TANKS, 30 AMX TANKS FROM FRANCE, EIGHT GUNBOATS FROM FRANCE, FOUR OF WHICH HAVE BEEN DELIVERED, AND TWELVE 1000-TON SUBMARINES FROM GERMANY, EIGHT OF WHICH HAVE BEEN DELIVERED. (GREECE ALLEGEDLY HAS BEEN GIVEN PRIORITY OVER TURKEY IN PROCURING THESE SUBMARINES.) THE GOG'S DEFENSE BUDGET HAS BEEN INCREASED FROM \$1.5 TO \$2 BILLION. HURRIYET ALSO REPORTED THAT GREECE HAS A 20,000-MAN COMMANDO UNIT CALLED "ASTEM" FOR NON- NATO USE IN ATHENS AND DODECANESE ISLANDS (SIC), WHICH CAN BE AUGMENTED TO 100,000 MEN IN TIME OF CRISIS.

3. ACCORDING TO MARCH 31 MEDIUM CIRCULATION CUMHURIYET, GREECE IS TAKING INTENSIVE MILITARY STEPS IN AEGEAN, WITH HELLENIC NAVY IN STATE OF ALERT. IN NORTHERN AEGEAN, WHERE OIL HAS BEEN FOUND, HELICOPTER AND AIRCRAFT RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS ALLEGEDLY HAVE INCREASED.

4. REGARDING TURKISH ACCESS TO AGEAN:

A. MARCH 31 CUMHURIYET OBSERVED THAT, SINCE THE GREEKS CONSIDER THE AEGEAN A "GREEK LAKE", ATHENS IS NOT ANSWERING ANKARA'S FEBRUARY 27 NOTE ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF QUESTION. FURTHERMORE, OIL PROSPECTING BY TURKEY IN AEGEAN WILL BE CONSIDERED A VIOLATION OF GREECE'S SOVERIGN RIGHTS. CUMHURIYET STATES, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOG HAS ASKED THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GREEK PRESS NOT TO FAN HOSTILITY TOWARDS TURKEY.

B. MARCH 31 MASS CIRCULATION GUNAYDIN NOTED THAT, BECAUSE THE US WITHIN NATO CONTEXT HAS EMPHASIZED GREECE'S ROLE ON SEAS AND TURKEY'S ROLE ON LAND, AEGEAN HAS CAUSED DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND HAS BECOME ONE OF MAIN BONES OF CONTENTION IN NATO. THIS PAPER, ON THE OTHER HAND, QUOTES AN MFA SPOKESMAN AS REMARKING THAT THE

AEGEAN CONFLICT BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE CAN BE RESOLVED
PEACEFULLY.

C. MARCH 31 EDITION OF MEDIUM CIRCULATION MILLIYET
ALLEGED THAT GREECE FOR FIFTEEN YEARS HAS BEEN MAINTAINING
VIEW THAT TURKEY SHOULD REQUEST PERMISSION TO HOLD MILITARY
EXERCISES IN THE AEGEAN. THIS MATTER AGAIN WILL BE TAKEN UP
WITH NATO. MILLIYET ALSO NOTED THAT GREECE CONTROLS THE
AEGEAN FIR.

5. THE TURKISH RESPONSE IS REPORTED BY HURRIYET:

A. MARCH 30 HURRIYET QUOTES DEFENSE MINISTER HASAN
ISIK AS STATING THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR ANXIETY OVER GREEK
REARMAMENT. IT IS A REQUIREMENT OF DEFENSE, ISIK REPORTEDLY
SAID, FOR TURKEY TO KEEP PACE WITH EVERY COUNTRY, FRIEND OR
FOE, TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE; THE GOT HAS A REORGANIZATION AND
MODERNIZATION PLAN TO ACCOMPLISH THIS.

B. SAME PAPER QUOTES CHIEF OF TURKISH AIR FORCE
ALPKAYA AS OBSERVING THAT GREECE HAS NO MIRAGES. FURTHER
MORE, ALPKAYA REPORTEDLY REMARKED, TURKEY IS TRYING TO
MANUFACTURE FIGHTERS, WHILE GREECE IS MERELY ATTEMPTING TO
ESTABLISH AIRCRAFT REPAIR FACILITIES.

C. HURRIYET QUOTES A "HIGH RANKING AIR FORCE OFFICER"
AS STATING THAT THE TURKISH AIR FORCE IS SUPERIOR TO ITS GREEK
COUNTERPART, AND HAS BEEN FOR YEARS.

D. ACCORDING TO HURRIYET, A "HIGH OFFICIAL OF THE
AIR FORCE" WAS REPORTED TO HAVE REPEATED THAT DELIVERY OF
THE 40 PHANTOMS TO TURKEY FROM THE US WILL START IN APRIL 1974.

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E. ALSO ACCORDING TO HURRIYET, PRIME MINISTER, IN
RESPONSE TO A JOURNALIST'S QUESTION CONCERNING THE REPORTED
CRASH OF A GREEK PLANE OBSERVING THE MARCH 28 TURKISH AIR
FORCE EXERCISE OVER THE AEGEAN, SAID HE DID NOT THINK THAT
THERE WAS FRICTION BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE.
MACOMBER

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